TL 2929

Statement by Mr Satsuki Eda MP. (Japan) Mr Tony Lamb MP (Australia) and Lord Avebury (United Kingdom)

We came here having noted recent constructive developments in the problem of East Timor:

* The positive statements made by the President of the Republic and the Government of Portugal regarding East Timor since the last General Assembly of the United Nations.

* The resolution on East Timor tabled in the European Parliament by the Political Affairs Committee.

* The common stand adopted by the 12 EEC Foreign Ministers on East Timor at the joint EEC/Asean meeting in May.

* The Resolution by the UN Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities on East Timor at their meeting of August 1987.

* The suggestion by Mario Carrascalao, Governor of East Timor, and its endorsement by General Rudini, Indonesian Minister of the Interior that open access to East Timor should be allowed.

In the light of these developments, and the discussions held over three days in Lisbon with members of the East Timor community, representatives of the East Timor Convergence (Fretilin and UDT), the President of the Asambleia Nacional, the Deputy Foreign Minister, and the Parliamentary Commission on East Timor, we have decided to launch Parliamentarians for East Timor, a new organisation to coordinate and promote activities in support of a just solution to the problem of East Timor in as many countries as possible.

The organisation will base its actions on the Declaration signed by some 450 Parliamentarians in June 1985, a copy of which is attached.

Among the initiatives we are considering are:

* The publication of a factual account of the Indonesian invasion and annexation of the territory, contrary to Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter.

* Publication of a note on United Nations declarations on the right of self-determination, and their application to the case of East Timor.

* An approach to the Secretary General of the United Nations, asking him to say when he proposes to begin consultations with the people of East Timor, as required by General Assmbly Resolution 37/30 of November 1982.

* Petitioning the UN Decolonisation Committee in August.

* Renewal of the request made to the Indonesian authorities several times in the past, to allow an on-site investigation by Parliamentarians of alleged human rights violations.

* Making representations to non-aligned countries, to vote against conferring the Presidency of the Movement on Indonesia while the question of East Timor remains unresolved to the satisfaction of the UN.

* Making representations to the World Bank on the family planning programmes in East Timor, in the light of allegations of compulsory sterilisation and the use of the drug Depo-Provera.

* Working in the Inter Parliamentary Union to reinforce the constructive resolution passed at the Bangkok meeting.

* Bringing influence to bear on the InterGovernmental Group on Aid to Indonesia (IGGI), to ensure that human rights are raised there.

With regard to the approach to Portuguese MPs to visit East Timor from the Indonesian Parliament, we believe that it should take place only within the principles set down by the United Nations, including particularly non-recognition of the annexation, free access and mobility.

We heard again during our visit, recent evidence of killings, torture, disappearance and rape. Contrary to the view expressed by some governments, human rights violations are still very serious. Foreign visitors get a distorted picture through the use of careful stage management.

We are convinced that the realisation of a just solution for the question of East Timor, based on the principle of self-determination, is essential not only for the sake of the people of East Timor themselves, but for the whole of mankind. If acts of aggression are condoned, and the transfer of territory by military force is acceptable, world peace can never be secure.

Lisbon, 1988 June 28

DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF EAST TIMOR

Recognizing that the territory of East Timor has been illegally occupied by Indonesia since December 1975, inflicting extreme loss of life and destruction;

Recognizing that the Indonesian policy to isolate East Timor prevents the I.C.R.C. and other relief and development agencies from reaching those in need, and denies the international community opportunities to assess the wishes of the people independently;

Condemning the human rights violations committed since 1975, as reported by Church leaders in East Timor and by independent human rights organizations;

Recognizing that the East Timorese have been denied their right to self-determination;

Welcoming, finally, the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 37/30 which asked the U.N. Secretary-General "to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem", and acknowledging the steps which have been taken to bring Portugal and Indonesia into negotiations;

WE AFFIRM that negotiations will not lead to a just settlement unless they:

1. Involve representatives of the East Timorese people including those who resist the present occupation;

2. Secure an end to hostilities which prevent the people of East Timor and their representatives from contributing freely to negotiations leading to self-determination;

3. Provide internationally acceptable conditions of access to relief and development agencies and to independent visitors, journalists and diplomats; and

4. Include an act of self-determination, which is free from interference and verified by international observers acceptable to the East Timorese people.

We commend all international initiatives which observe these principles, and will call upon our Government to support actively a process of negotiation conducted on such terms.

SIGNED: